AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (original): A method for transferring one or more media files from a content server to a media playback device, comprising:

receiving a request of one or more media files to be transferred to a particular media playback device, the one or more media files having associated expiration rules;

obtaining information about the particular media playback device;

determining, based on the information about the particular media playback device, whether the particular media playback device has the capability to enforce the expiration rules associated with the one or more media files;

if the media playback device has the capability to enforce the expiration rules, formatting the requested one or more media files such that they can only be rendered by the particular playback device and transferring the formatted files and the expiration rules to the particular media playback device.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the media files further have associated content rights and further comprising:

determining, based on the information about the particular media playback device, whether the particular media playback device satisfies the content rights associated with the one or more media files; and

if the particular media playback device does not satisfy the content rights, denying transfer of the one or more media files to the particular playback device.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the media files further have associated content rights and further comprising:

obtaining information about a user account associated with the particular media playback device, the user account having associated usage rights;

determining, based on the information about the user account, whether the usage rights satisfy the content rights associated with the one or more media files; and

if the usage rights do not satisfy the content rights, denying transfer of the one or more

media files to the particular playback device.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the information about the particular media playback device includes a unique device identifier and device capabilities for playing media files.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising:
generating a current time stamp; and
transferring the current time stamp to a secure location on the media playback device.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the expiration rules include a maximum number of playbacks for the one or more media files.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the expiration rules include a relative expiration time for the one or more media files.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the expiration rules include an absolute expiration time for the one or more media files.

Claim 9 (original): A method for updating expiration rules for media files to be played on a media playback device, comprising:
receiving a request for updating expiration rules for one or more media files;
obtaining information about a particular media playback device;
obtaining current expiration rules for the one or more media files for which an update has been requested;
comparing the current expiration rules with expiration rules stored on the content server for the one or more media files to determine if the current expiration rules can be updated;
if the current expiration rules can be updated, transferring new expiration rules from a content server to the particular media playback device;

if the current expiration rules cannot be updated, requesting a user of the particular media playback device to perform an action before the current expiration rules can be updated; and

if the user performs the requested action, transferring new expiration rules from the content server to the particular media playback device.

Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 9, wherein the information about the particular media playback device includes a unique device identifier and device capabilities for playing media files.

Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 9, wherein transferring new expiration rules from the content server comprises:

transferring the new expiration to a communication module that is operable to communicate with the playback device; and

transferring the new expiration rules from the communication module to the playback device.

Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 9, wherein the current expiration rules include a maximum number of playbacks for the one or more media files.

Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 9, wherein the current expiration rules include a relative expiration time for the one or more media files.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 9, wherein the current expiration rules include an absolute expiration time for the one or more media files.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 9, wherein updating the current expiration rules comprises:

generating a current time stamp; and

transferring the current time stamp to a secure location on the media playback device.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A method for playing a media file on a playback device, comprising:

receiving a user request to play the media file, the media file having one or more associated expiration rules;

validating a storage medium on the particular playback device;

reading the one or more expiration rules associated with the requested media file;

determining, based on the one or more expiration rules, if the media file has expired;

if the media file has expired, refusing to play the media file until one or more new expiration rules have been obtained; and

if the media file has not expired, playing the media file to the user.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The method of claim 16, wherein ~~determining~~ validating comprises:

calculating a hash value for a file on the storage medium; and

comparing the hash value to a value stored in a protected storage area of the particular playback device.

~~comprising: validating a storage medium on the particular playback device.~~

Claim 18 (original): The method of claim 16, wherein determining comprises:
determining if a maximum number of playbacks for the media file has been reached.

Claim 19 (original): The method of claim 16, wherein determining comprises:
determining if a relative expiration time for the one or more media files has passed.

Claim 20 (original): The method of claim 16, wherein determining comprises:
determining if an absolute expiration time for the one or more media files has passed.

Claim 21 (original): A content server for transferring media files to a playback device,

comprising:

means for receiving a request of one or more media files to be transferred to a particular media playback device, the one or more media files having associated expiration rules;

means for obtaining information about the particular media playback device;

means for determining, based on the information about the particular media playback device, whether the particular media playback device has the capability to enforce the expiration rules associated with the one or more media files;

means for formatting the requested one or more media files such that they can only be rendered by the particular playback device and transferring the formatted files and the expiration rules to the particular media playback device, if the media playback device has the capability to enforce the expiration rules.

Claim 22 (original): The content server of claim 21 wherein the media files further have associated content rights and further comprising:

means for determining, based on the information about the particular media playback device, whether the particular media playback device satisfies the content rights associated with the one or more media files; and

means for denying transfer of the one or more media files to the particular playback device if the particular media playback device does not satisfy the content rights.

Claim 23 (original): The content server of claim 21, wherein the media files further have associated content rights and further comprising:

means for obtaining information about a user account associated with the particular media playback device, the user account having associated usage rights;

means for determining, based on the information about the user account, whether the usage rights satisfy the content rights associated with the one or more media files; and

means for denying transfer of the one or more media files to the particular playback device if the usage rights do not satisfy the content rights.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The content server of claim 21, wherein the information about the particular media playback device includes a unique device identifier and device capabilities for playing media files.

Claim 25 (original): The content server of claim 21, further comprising:
generating a current time stamp; and
transferring the current time stamp to a secure location on the media playback device.

Claim 26 (original): The content server of claim 21, wherein the expiration rules include a maximum number of playbacks for the one or more media files.

Claim 27 (original): The content server of claim 21, wherein the expiration rules include a relative expiration time for the one or more media files.

Claim 28 (original): The content server of claim 21, wherein the expiration rules include an absolute expiration time for the one or more media files.

Claim 29 (original): The content server of claim 21, further comprising:
means for receiving a request for updating expiration rules for one or more media files;
means for obtaining information about a particular media playback device;
means for obtaining current expiration rules for the one or more media files for which an update has been requested;
means for comparing the current expiration rules with expiration rules stored on the content server for the one or more media files to determine if the current expiration rules can be updated;
means for transferring new expiration rules from a content server to the particular media playback device if the current expiration rules can be updated;
means for requesting a user of the particular media playback device to perform an action before the current expiration rules can be updated if the current expiration rules cannot be updated; and

means for transferring new expiration rules from the content server to the particular media playback device if the user performs the requested action.

Claim 30 (currently amended): A playback device for playing media files, comprising:

means for receiving a user request to play the media file, the media file having one or more associated expiration rules;

means for validating a storage medium on the particular playback device;

means for reading the one or more expiration rules associated with the requested media file;

means for determining, based on the one or more expiration rules, if the media file has expired;

means for refusing playback of the media file until one or more new expiration rules have been obtained if the media file has expired; and

means for playing the media file to the user if the media file has not expired.

Claim 31 (currently amended): The playback device of claim 30, wherein the means for validating comprises:

a means for obtaining from the storage medium a hash value for a file stored on the storage medium; and

a means for comparing the obtained hash value with a value stored in a protected storage area of the particular playback device. further comprising means for validating a storage medium on the particular playback device.

Claim 32 (original): The playback device of claim 30, wherein the means for determining comprises:

means for determining if a maximum number of playbacks for the media file has been reached.

Claim 33 (original): The playback device of claim 30, wherein the means for determining comprises:

means for determining if a relative expiration time for the one or more media files has passed.

Claim 34 (original): The playback device of claim 30, wherein the means for determining comprises:

means for determining if an absolute expiration time for the one or more media files has passed.